

1309150

**City of Merrill
Water & Sewage Disposal Committee
Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.
Basement Conference Room, City Hall, 1004 East First Street**

Members Present (2 of 3): Alderwoman Kandy Peterson and Alderman Rob Norton. Alderman John Burgener (Chairperson) had an excused absence.

Others Present: Mayor Bill Bialecki, City Administrator Dave Johnson, Utility Superintendent Kim Kriewald, Finance Director Kathy Unertl, John Mayer, Alderman Dave Sukow and City Clerk Bill Heideman. A student was in attendance to videotape the meeting for the Cable Access Channel.

Call to order

In the absence of Alderman Burgener, Alderman Norton called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Vouchers

The vouchers were in the meeting packet.

Motion (Peterson/Norton) to approve the vouchers as presented. Carried.

Consider water rate increase proposal prepared by John Mayer

Information was in the meeting packet.

Utility Rate Consultant John Mayer gave a presentation on a water rate increase proposal that he has prepared. If the rate increase is approved, it is estimated it would provide the utility with an estimated additional \$120,858, which represents a 9.45% increase in revenues. This would allow the cash flow to pay for normal water main replacement and other capital expenditures without the need to borrow. It would also be a large step in maintaining the excellent financial health the utility has enjoyed over the past several decades.

Mr. Mayer explained that, since it takes some time for the Public Service Commission to review and make decisions on applications, he is seeking authorization to submit the proposal as soon as possible. He noted that, if the Common Council does not approve the proposed increase, the application could always be withdrawn later.

Motion (Norton/Peterson) to authorize John Mayer to submit, as prepared, a water rate increase proposal to the Public Service Commission for their consideration. Carried.

Note: No Common Council action is necessary at this time. However, if the Public Service Commission approves the increase, Common Council approval would still be necessary to implement the rate increase.

Consider proposals to rehab grit removal system @ Wastewater Treatment Plant

Information was in the meeting packet.

Utility Superintendent Kriewald reported that the rehab of the grit removal system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant was originally to be included as a potential 2014 capital project. However, circumstances have dictated that this project needs to be started sooner. Based on that fact, Utility Superintendent has contacted five companies to obtain prices on the equipment that would be necessary for the project.

After conducting his research, Utility Superintendent Kriewald is recommending approval of the proposal of \$123,800 from Process Equipment Repair Services, Inc. Utility Superintendent Kriewald noted that the project would be funded by the Equipment Replacement Fund.

1309151

Motion (Norton/Peterson) to approve the proposal of \$123,800 from Process Equipment Repair Services, Inc., to rehabilitate/replace the grit removal system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Carried.

Operations Report

The report was in the meeting packet. Utility Superintendent Kriewald noted that changes in the permitting process are pending.

Public Comment

None.

Next meeting

Wednesday, September 25th, 2013 at 5:00 P.M.

Adjournment

Motion (Peterson/Norton) to adjourn. Carried. Adjourned at 5:16 P.M.

Minutes prepared and submitted by:

William N. Heideman, CMC, WCMC
City Clerk